GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SPACE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3960
ANSWERED ON:17.05.2006
WEATHER SATELLITE
Kharventhan Shri Salarapatty Kuppusamy

Will the Minister of SPACE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are certain difficulties in getting clear imageries of the earth in cloudy weather conditions;

(b) if so, whether the ISRO proposes to develop any satellite for the benefit of the farmers;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER`S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Presently, Indian Remote Sensing Satellites use electro-optical imaging systems, which do not have the capability to penetrate the clouds. To overcome this, ISRO is developing a microwave satellite, Radar Imaging Satellite (RISAT) for launch during 2007-08.

(c) RISAT will have a multi-mode, multi-polarisation C-band Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) payload with cloud penetrating as well as night-and-day imaging capability. With this all-weather imaging capability, RISAT will provide information for a variety of applications such as crop acreage and production estimation of the agricultural crops grown during the cloudy kharif season and also for more effective monitoring of the natural disasters especially the floods and drought. RISAT is thus expected to enhance the benefits of remote sensing technology to the farmers.

(d) Does not arise.